Gc
929.2
M6857m
1813525

M. L.

REYNOLDS HISTORICAL
GENEALOGY COLLECTION

Gc

ALLEN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
3 1833 01417 1208

THE MISENER FAMILY

in

New Jersey and Canada

by

RAY S. MORRISH, M.D.

Compiled 1935, Published 1951
Flint, Michigan

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2019

https://archive.org/details/misenerfamilyinn00morr

Ref
929.2
Misener
M
c.1

MISENER

THE name Misener appears in various ways of spelling. Misener is used in the title for it is the form most commonly used, although many use Misner, Mizner and occasionally Muisener. The spelling in the text is used exactly as each branch of the family used it at the time they appeared in Canada. At the present time the name appears generally in two forms only, that of Misener and Misner.

WP

1813525

Rec'd. 10-24-74

COPYRIGHT 1951
R. S. MORRISH

THE MISENER FAMILY IN NEW JERSEY AND CANADA

Differences of opinion in Europe, both political and religious, has for centuries been a cause of mass migrations of its people, and in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries led to vast settlements in America. The Germans in New Jersey came because they were a persecuted people, particularly those from the Palatinate and North Rhine country, who were from time to time first hand victims of French terrorism. Holland and England offered shelter to many it is true, but the most inviting land was the American Colonies, and they came by the tens of thousands. Most of the colonists were of yeoman stock, that is, they were freeholders. If too poor to pay passage from Rotterdam to Philadelphia, which amounted to about three hundred fifty dollars in copper coin, many bound themselves in servitude for a period of three to five years in order to get to this country. Their wants were few and simple and travel was difficult. Theirs were to be lives full of privation, always associated with the dangers of a new country, yet they experienced a freedom such as had never been known in the homeland, and the Germans were willing to start anew.

Among this group to come to New Jersey was the family of Richard Misner, and his wife Elizabeth, who came by way of Holland in 1720. Accompanying them were their three sons, Nicholas, Adam, and Henry. Just where they resided for the first twenty years is not known, but about 1740 the Germans began to settle in what is now Andover Township, Sussex County, and the Misners were among them. Richard Misner continued to live there until the time of his death, April 22, 1762. He left to survive him his widow and three sons.

Henry Misner lived in Hardwick Township, Sussex County, but there is no record of his family.

Nicholas Misner also lived in Hardwick Township at the time of his death, July 12, 1770. Surviving were his wife, a son Conrad, and a daughter, Mrs. Rosanna Calshear. Conrad is believed to have died in Somerset County in 1796.

Adam Misener lived near his brothers, Henry and Nicholas, where he reared a family of five sons and five daughters. Of the latter there is no record, but the sons were Jacob, John, Peter,

Conrad and Nicholas. Adam Misener lived to the great age of 104 years, having been born in Germany in 1710 and died in 1814. His sons, John and Nicholas, emigrated to Canada in 1793 and settled at Niagara, where Nicholas remained for the balance of his lifetime. John took his family in 1800 to the Longpoint Settlement, Ontario. Some of Peter's children settled near Brantford, Ontario, where many of their descendants still live. It has been said other members of Adam's family moved to Vermont, while still others remained in New Jersey. One branch of Miseners moved to Pennsylvania, and a representative of this group, Leonard Misener, started a settlement near Port Robinson, Ontario, where many of his descendants now live.

In Somerset County, New Jersey, records show that the elder Nicholas Misner was one of the trustees of St. Paul's Church at Pluckemin in 1762 and that his son Conrad was a member of the congregation. Between 1797 and 1803, Christopher, David and John Misner are listed as voters from Bedminster Township. These men are believed to have been sons of Conrad.

Returning to the Miseners in Canada it is found that Nicholas Misener, the son of Adam, was born in Hardwick Township in 1760 where he continued to reside until he was thirty-three years of age. Very little is known of his life while in New Jersey, or of the family experiences during the war of the Revolution. On April 16, 1785, he was married to Miss Jane McClain, a girl of Scotch-Irish descent, and four children were born to them while they still lived in this vicinity. About ten weeks following the birth of the fourth child, Sarah, the family left to find a new home in upper Canada. Their belongings consisted of a yoke of oxen, a cow, a horse, and some necessary household goods. Mrs. Misener rode the horse, with the baby strapped to her back, and proceeded to Oswego, New York, where she boarded a sailboat for the balance of the trip up Lake Ontario — the horse, oxen and cart having been sent on to complete the trip overland.

The family landed at Niagara on July 4, 1793. From there they proceeded up beyond the falls to settle in Crowland Township, and after a delay of some days, Mr. Misener walked to the Surveyor General's office in York (Toronto), where he took the oath of allegiance to the crown, and was granted a tract of two hundred acres. He paid an equivalent of forty dollars, received a certificate of title, and made the return trip of a hundred miles on foot to his

new home. That summer and the following fall, Mr. Misener cleared an acre of ground and built a log cabin, and next dug up some of the ground for his grain, and planted some apple seeds he had carefully brought with him. This brought forth a fine orchard which survived until about 1929. In this new home, the balance of his family was born.

Some time later Mr. Misener acquired, from his brother John, two hundred acres that adjoined his own, and built a new home on this tract, where he spent the remainder of his life.

About 1818, he acquired four hundred acres of land in the Township of Beverly, District of Gore, where he placed his sons, Richard, Peter, Adam and Conrad. This later became the site of the Village of Troy. He also bought two hundred acres in the Township of Yarmouth, District of London, which later became the property of his eldest son Richard. This home remained in the possession of the Misener family for many years, and is now used by the golf club at St. Thomas.

Through necessity, and because of his nature, Nicholas Misener was a frugal man; he had a large family to provide for, and that he did well. He was very active, a man of good judgment, and for his time became very well-to-do. With all the hardships and toil of the time, he still found time for vacation and recreation. Once a year he and his wife would start out with team and carriage to visit their children; some in Brant County, another in Norfolk County, while others were in the London District. This meant slow travel over several hundred miles of dirt road, and trails through the woods.

During the time the Miseners lived in the Niagara District they saw much that later became history, and were familiar with the events that happened in and around Chippewa, Niagara, and Queenston during the War of 1812. The rout of the British forces at Chippewa happened almost at the Misener farm, and the family knew of the movement of American troops toward Niagara to meet the army of General Drummond. The father and two of the younger boys were working in the fields, and expected to hear firing at any time. This did not occur until about sundown, when the opposing armies met at Lundy's Lane, and the fighting continued until midnight of a stifling July night. The mother and other members of the family stood in the yard and watched the flash of firing in the sky, and listened to the din of battle that was to practically end the fighting on Canadian soil for the balance of the war.

Ref
929.2
Misener
C.1

The two eldest boys were fighting on the side of the British, as were many other boys of the neighborhood. Fortunately for Nicholas Misener, none of his boys were among the casualties.

Mr. Misener died at his Niagara home January 21, 1849, and lies buried in Chippewa Creek Cemetery nearby.

Mr. and Mrs. Misener were the parents of twelve children, and provided them with such education as was available at the time, and lived long enough to see them grow up and provided with homes of their own. Marble shafts now pay silent tribute to two lives well spent, and rich in the lore of pioneer existence.

Children of Nicholas and Jane McClain Misener:

Richard—Born in New Jersey, February 20, 1786; died July 17, 1867; buried at St. Thomas, Ontario. Married Hannah Cazort.

1813525

Margaret—Born in New Jersey, November 20, 1788; died May 15, 1874; buried in Chippewa Creek Cemetery near Niagara Falls, Ontario. Married Adam Young.

Peter—Born in New Jersey, December 1, 1790; died January 6, 1877. Married Mary Smith.

Sarah—Born in New Jersey, March 16, 1793; died May 3, 1889; buried in Frome Cemetery, near St. Thomas, Ontario. Married Hugh Sharon.

Andrew—Born in Crowland Township, District of Niagara, Upper Canada, December 5, 1795; unmarried; died August 30, 1876; buried in Chippewa Creek Cemetery. Lived his entire life on the old homestead.

Adam—Born in Crowland Township, February 20, 1798; died September 2, 1901; buried in Troy, Ontario. Married first, Mary Miller; later married Helen Coleman.

Nicholas—Born in Crowland Township, October 18, 1801; died September 4, 1881. Lived in Township of Townsend, County of Norfolk, Ontario. Married Elizabeth Dill.

Conrad—Born in Crowland Township, October 4, 1803; died October 22, 1882; buried in Troy, Ontario. Married Elizabeth Dunstan.

Elizabeth—Born in Crowland Township, August 14, 1805; died January 14, 1897; buried at Niagara Falls, Ontario. Married Philip Bender II.

FLINT PUBLIC LIBRARY

Mary—Born in Crowland Township, June 14, 1808; died March 18, 1834; buried in Chippewa Creek Cemetery, Ontario. Unmarried.

John McClain Misener—Born in Crowland Township, November 14, 1810; died October 30, 1899; buried near Chippewa, Ontario. Married Jane Davis.

William—Born in Crowland Township, October 5, 1812; died February 14, 1896; buried near Chippewa, Ontario. Married Ann Dill.

John Misner was born in Sussex County, New Jersey, about 1755. His early life was spent near his birthplace where he married Miss Mary Shular, and to this union was born four sons. Mr. Misner emigrated to Canada, with his brother Nicholas, in 1793, and settled near Lyon's Creek, a short distance from Niagara Falls, where he lived until 1800. About this time many families were leaving the Niagara country to find new homes in the Longpoint settlement. The families of Jacob Potts and John Misner, together with the Slaght family, moved to Norfolk County, Ontario, bringing their livestock on foot along the lake shore, and their household goods in rowboats.

Mr. Misner settled on Lot No. 1, 4th. Concession, Woodhouse Township, where he resided until 1812 when he died during an epidemic of typhus fever. In 1801 he was elected constable of Woodhouse, and took an active part in the political and religious life of his adopted land.

The children of John and Mary Misner were: Jacob, born in New Jersey, 1775. He went away from home when a young man, and it is not known what became of him. John, Jr. (1777-1874). Born in New Jersey and married Elizabeth Lemon. A prominent farmer in Woodhouse Township, and an active man in his community. Had seven sons and six daughters. Henry, born in New Jersey in 1780. Married Sarah Forsythe, and settled on a farm in Townsend Township, Norfolk County, Ontario. No children. Adam (Jan. 8, 1783 - Feb. 18, 1872). Married Temperance Williams. Many descendants live in and about Simcoe, Ontario.

The relationship of Leonard Misener to the others mentioned in this article is not known, however, he was born in New Jersey in 1744, and sometime later in life moved to Pennsylvania where he remained until the Revolutionary War. Because of his sympathy

for the British cause his property was confiscated, and it became necessary to seek a new home in Canada. He became one of the early settlers near Port Robinson, Ontario, and married Miss Barbara Bender of Niagara Falls. Nine children were born of this union and many descendants still live in the Niagara Peninsula. Mr. Misener died September 3, 1806, and Mrs. Misener, April 23, 1821. Buried in Caryl Cemetery.

Children of Leonard and Barbara Bender Misener:

Many members of this family retained an early form of the name, Muisener, but again later generations used the simpler form, Misener.

Peter Muisener—Born September 18, 1768; died September 5, 1835; buried in Lundy's Lane Cemetery, Niagara Falls, Ontario. Married Rheuamah Lanton.

Elizabeth Muisener—Born August 28, 1770. Married John Carl.

Mary Muisener—Born Oct. 30, 1772. Married John Heslap.

John Muisener—Born August 5, 1774; died May 18, 1855; buried in Fonthill Cemetery near Niagara Falls, Ontario. Married Catherine Young.

Leonard Muisener—Born February 13, 1777. Married Ann Cook.

Anna Muisener—Born July 20, 1779. Married, 1st, Amacy Matthews; 2nd, John Watson.

Charlott Muisener—Born July 20, 1779. Married Calvin Cook.

Mathias Muisener—Born December 27, 1781; died February 3, 1862. Married, 1st, Catherine Vanderburg; 2nd, Hannah Hilton.

Care Muisener—Born Oct. 2, 1783. Married John Wagner.

Peter Misener was a son of Adam Misener of Sussex County, New Jersey, and a brother of John and Nicholas Misener, who settled near Lyon's Creek in Niagara. Peter did not migrate to Canada with his brothers, but lived his entire life in New Jersey. The dates of his birth and death are not known.

Children of Peter and Mary Misener:

John, born April 13, 1771; Adam, born September 27, 1772; Catherine, born November 24, 1774; Elizabeth, born March

C 24 1951

2, 1777; William, born October 2, 1779; Rebecca, born January 6, 1782; Mary, born July 11, 1784; Peter, born March 2, 1787.

William Misener, the fifth child of Peter and Mary Misener, was born in Sussex County, New Jersey. After spending his early years in the land of his birth, he took his young wife to Canada and settled in the District of Gore about two miles west of the present site of Jerseyville. Here he established a wagon and implement shop for the manufacture of wagons and buggies. Shortly after their arrival, Mrs. Misener and an infant child died. Later, while on a visit to New Jersey, Mr. Misener took as his second wife a Miss Miller, who bore him ten children. A third marriage to Miss Maziers increased the family by ten more, making a total of twenty living children who grew to maturity and had families of their own.

Peter A. Misener, the eighth and youngest child of Peter and Mary Misener, was born in the Township of Independence, Sussex County, New Jersey. Married Deborah Willson. Mr. and Mrs. Misener migrated to Canada, and settled in the Township of Ancaster, Wentworth County, Ontario, near what was later to become Jerseyville. Five children were born to this union.

Beginning as a small group the Misener family is now a very large one, scattered far from the original New Jersey home into all parts of Canada and the United States. Probably by far the largest groups live in Michigan and the Province of Ontario. Once each year there is a family gathering held to renew the ties of relationship, and judging from the attendance, which always numbers more than three hundred, the tie is a binding one. Now far from the Mother State, this family is not unmindful of the important part New Jersey played in its establishment in the New World.

Fluir
Ref
929.2
Misener
M

7040